

# Aeronautical Systems Center

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*Dominant Air Power: Design For Tomorrow...Deliver To*



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

## **“Heraldry How-to”**

**ASC Focus Week**

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# Quick History of Heraldry



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- **Medieval Europe - Early 12<sup>th</sup> century, crusades**
- **Better armour, harder to identify individuals - emblazoned shields and pennons became common and systematic**
- **Symbols passed from father to son**
- **Use of symbols expanded from individuals, to families, to kingdoms and their armies.**



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# American Military Heraldry - History



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- **Military symbols in use since the American Revolution**
- **1919 - separate function within the Army General Staff in response to request for improved medals and insignia.**
- **1920 - Army officially adopts heraldic coat of arms to foster tradition and esprit de corps**



- **1920 - Heraldic Section of the Office of the Quartermaster General established - responsible for research, design and development of distinctive unit insignia**
- **1949 - Munitions Boards directed that the Army provide heraldic devices to all military departments and other branches**



- **1960 - US Army Institute of Heraldry established under control of Quartermaster General. Only institution devoted to science and art of military heraldry and other official symbolism**
- **1987 - Institute of Heraldry responsibility of US total Army Personnel Command**
- **Office and museum located at Fort Belvoir, VA**



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- **World War I - Brig Gen Benjamin Foulois, Chief of Air Service, established policy for insignia of aerial units, ordered each squadron to have an official insignia painted on both sides of fuselage of each aircraft**
- **World War II - War Department determined AAF policy for official emblem approval, though many units failed to obtain official approval**
- **1945 - Official AF policy developed for emblem approval**
- **1984 - AF Heraldic Program became responsibility of USAF Historical Research Center, Maxwell AFB, AL**



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# Heraldic Terminology



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- **Establishment - Organization with constituted headquarters; group level or higher**
- **Unit - Organization with no headquarters; squadrons or flights**
- **Element - symbol or group of symbols portraying a single characteristic, trait, or concept**



- **Functional Emblem - unofficial emblems locally designed, often referred to as “morale patches”. NOT authorized for official wear.**
- **Nonunit - per AFI 38-101, organizations that are neither establishments nor units. For example, staff sections, program offices, operating locations, and flights are all nonunits.**

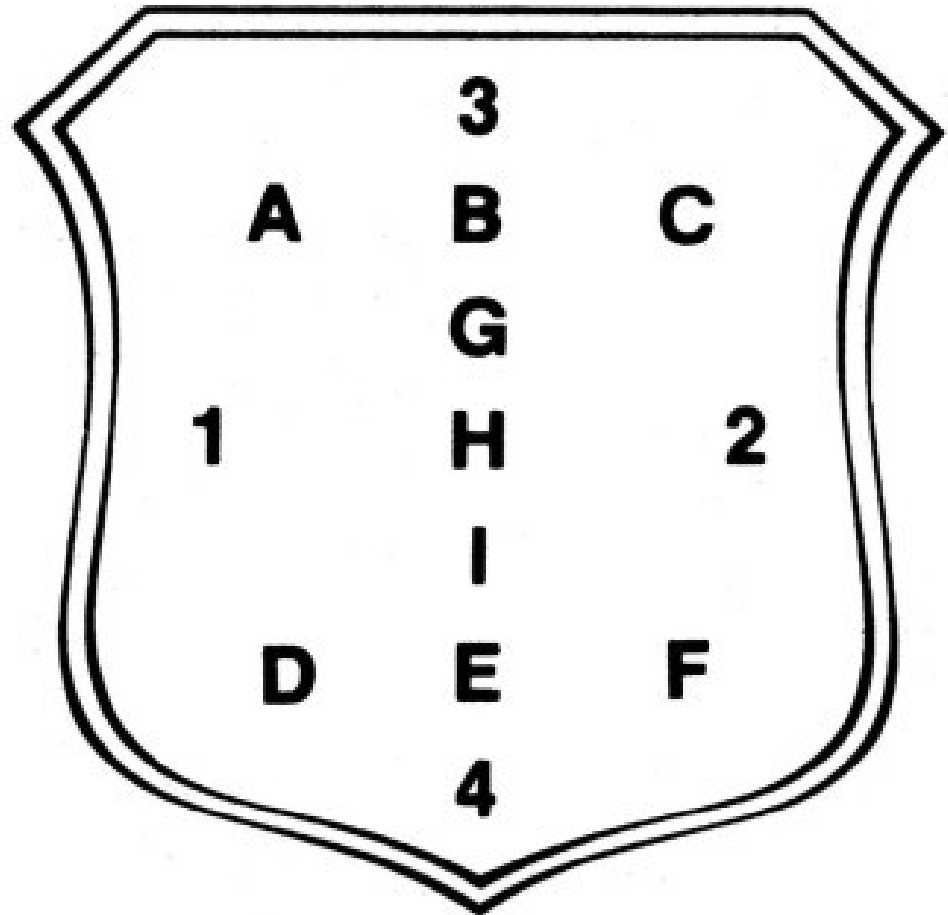




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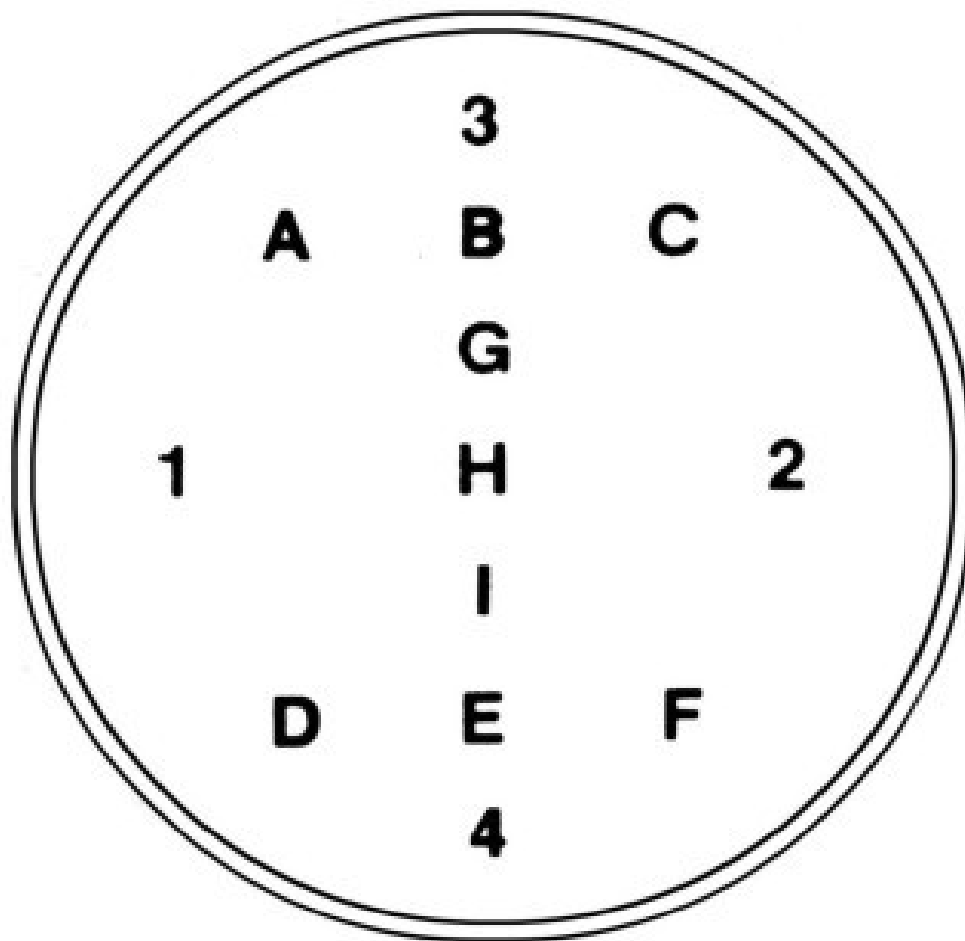
## *Dominant Air Power: Design For Tomorrow...Deliver Today*

1. Dexter (right side of bearer)
2. Sinister (left side of bearer)
3. Chief
4. Base
- A. Dexter Chief
- B. Middle Chief
- C. Sinister Chief
- D. Dexter Base
- E. Middle Base
- F. Sinister Base
- G. Honor Point
- H. Fess Point
- I. Nombril Point





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# No more than 6 colors...

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- **Symbology of colors -**
- **Red** - courage, blood of life, strength, warmth, patriotism
- **Orange** - Ambition, fire, pride
- **Yellow** (gold) - Honor, highest achievement, riches, majesty
- **Brown** - earth, constancy, stability



- **Green** - prosperity, youth, fertility, joy, hope
- **Blue** - devotion, justice, innocence, water, loyalty, piety
- **Purple** - Royalty, sacrifice, patience, truth
- **Black** - Dignity, night, determination
- **White (Silver)** - Purity, perfection, truth, light, innocence



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# Requirements per AFI84-105



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- **No more than three elements**
- **Accepted historical or stylized elements**
- **Uncluttered, clean and simple**
- **Don't duplicate existing emblems**
- **No symbols or caricatures associated with foreign nations**
- **No letters, numbers, words, symbols of a morbid nature (bye bye skeleton!), gambling devices, cartoons, assigned aircraft, or specific equipment**



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# Mottoes - simple phrase reflecting vision or heritage of the unit

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- **A wing or group may put their motto in the scroll**
- **No dots, dashes, commas, etc.**
- **Preferably in English, but if not translation must be provided**
- **White background, edged in yellow, lettering in AF blue (no more than 6 colors TOTAL)**



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# Mottos - continued



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- **For units with discs:**
- **Unit designation must go below. If desired, motto may go on scroll on top.**
- **Any color as long as the border of the disc and scroll are the same color as the letters on the scroll (No more than 6 colors TOTAL)**



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# Examples of shields

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One with unit designation, one with motto





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# Examples of unit discs



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One with motto, one without



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# Process



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- **Submit proposed emblem to history office**
- **Include: MIPR (DD 488) for appropriate amount**
- **Cover letter signed by commander**
- **Copy of emblem design in full color on both paper and disk (subdued colors will be determined by AFHRA)**
- **Staff Summary Sheet routed from center or wing history office for endorsement, then AFMC/HO for endorsement, finally AFHRA/RSO for approval**



- **Two copies of statement detailing symbolism/significance to organization (in “regular” English)**
- **If new emblem, statement that the organization has never had an emblem**
- **Name, DSN phone and fax of emblem project officer**
- **History office will review and either return for changes or forward to MAJCOM history office.**

